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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

ADRIENNE CAMMARERI,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BANK OF AMERICA, BAC HOME
LOANS, COUNTRYWIDE HOME
LOANS, INC., MTC FINANCIAL D/B/A
TRUSTEE CORPS., *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:11-CV-1501-KJD-PAL

ORDER

Presently before the Court is the Motion to Dismiss (#14) filed by Defendant MTC Financial Inc., d/b/a Trustee Corps. Plaintiff Adrienne Cammareri filed a response in opposition (#18) to which Defendant replied (#20). Plaintiff has also filed a sur-reply (#21).

I. Background

On May 11, 2007, Plaintiff Adrienne Cammareri borrowed \$256,400 from Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., secured by a Deed of Trust on property (the "Property") located at 4751 Clover

1 Ridge Street, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Deed of Trust named Plaintiff as Borrower, Countrywide
 2 Home Loans, Inc. as Lender, ReconTrust Company, N.A. as Trustee, and Mortgage
 3 Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as Beneficiary. Defendant MTC Financial Inc. d/b/a
 4 Trustee Corps. ("Defendant") was substituted as Trustee on February 2, 2011.

5 Subsequently, Plaintiff defaulted on her loan. As a consequence, Defendant recorded a Notice
 6 of Default on December 15, 2010 on behalf of the beneficiary. As of the date of this Motion, the
 7 property has not been sold.

8 On October 17, 2011, Plaintiff filed her Complaint (#3) alleging causes of action against
 9 Defendant for (1) fraud; (2) breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing; (3) quiet title; (4)
 10 breach of fiduciary duty; (5) injunctive relief; (6) suitability; (7) negligence; (8) liability per se; (9)
 11 unfair lending practices; and (10) intentional infliction of emotional distress. Plaintiff seeks to enjoin
 12 Defendant from selling the Property at foreclosure and seeks punitive damages in an amount in
 13 excess of \$10,000. On December 19, 2011, Defendant filed this Motion to Dismiss.¹

14 II. Discussion

15 A. Legal Standard for Motion to Dismiss

16 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Procedure Rule 12(b)(6), a complaint is subject to dismissal when
 17 the plaintiff's allegations fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. In considering a
 18 motion to dismiss, "all well-pleaded allegations of material fact are taken as true and construed in a
 19 light most favorable to the non-moving party." Wyler Summit Partnership v. Turner Broadcasting
 20 System, Inc., 135 F.3d 658, 661 (9th Cir.1998) (citation omitted). Consequently, there is a strong
 21 presumption against dismissing an action for failure to state a claim. See Gilligan v. Jamco Dev.
 22

23 ¹ The Court notes that Defendants BAC Home Loans, Bank Of America, and Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.
 24 filed a document (#19) purporting to join Defendant MTC Financial's Motion to Dismiss. The Federal Rules of Civil
 25 Procedure do not provide a mechanism for parties to join the motions of other parties. The Court discourages this
 26 unhelpful practice, particularly when, as here, the joinder contains 13 pages of additional argument and was filed after
 Plaintiff filed her opposition to MTC Financial's Motion to Dismiss. Generally the arguments of each party should be
 presented in a separate motion which can be individually docketed, responded to, and addressed by the Court. See
 District of Nevada, Special Order 109.

1 Corp., 108 F.3d 246, 249 (9th Cir.1997) (citation omitted). “To survive a motion to dismiss, a
 2 complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is
 3 plausible on its face.’” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009) (citing Bell Atl. Corp. v.
 4 Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)).

5 Plausibility, in the context of a motion to dismiss, means that the plaintiff has pleaded facts
 6 which allow “the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the
 7 misconduct alleged.” Id. The plausibility standard is “more than a sheer possibility that a defendant
 8 has acted unlawfully,” yet less than a “probability requirement.” Id. The Iqbal evaluation illustrates a
 9 two prong analysis. First, the Court identifies “the allegations in the complaint that are not entitled to
 10 the assumption of truth,” that is, those allegations which are legal conclusions, bare assertions, or
 11 merely conclusory. Id. at 1949–51. Second, the Court considers the factual allegations “to determine
 12 if they plausibly suggest an entitlement to relief.” Id. at 1951. If the allegations state plausible
 13 claims for relief, such claims survive the motion to dismiss. Id. at 1950.

14 Plaintiff is representing herself *pro se*. Courts must liberally construe the pleadings of *pro se*
 15 parties. See United States v. Eater, 902 F.2d 1383, 1385 (9th Cir. 1990). However, “*pro se*
 16 litigants in the ordinary civil case should not be treated more favorably than parties with attorneys of
 17 record.” Jacobsen v. Filler, 790 F.2d 1362, 1364 (9th Cir. 1986).

18 B. Local Rule 7-2 (d)

19 Local Rule 7-2 (d) provides that the failure of a moving party to file points and authorities in
 20 support of the motion shall constitute a consent to the denial of the motion. The failure of an
 21 opposing party to file points and authorities in response to any motion shall constitute a consent to
 22 the granting of the motion.

23 Even in light of the generous standards afforded to *pro se* litigants, Plaintiff’s opposition fails
 24 to meaningfully address any of the points raised by Defendant in support of its Motion. Much of the
 25 response provided by Plaintiff is inapplicable to the issues raised by Defendant. Even if Plaintiff had
 26 provided opposition, Defendant is entitled to dismissal as set forth below.

1 C. Fraud Claim

2 To state a claim for fraud, a plaintiff must plead: (1) a misrepresentation; (2) defendant's
3 knowledge of falsity; (3) defendant's intent to defraud; (4) plaintiff's justifiable reliance, and (5)
4 resulting damages. Urbina v. Homeview Lending, Inc., 681 F.Supp.2d 1254, 1260 (D. Nev. 2009).
5 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9(b) requires all allegations of fraud to be stated "with particularity."
6 See also, Schreiber Dist. Co. v. Serv-Well Furniture Co., 806 F.2d 1393, 1401 (9th Cir. 1986) (the
7 pleader must allege the "time, place, and specific content of the false representations as well as the
8 identities of the parties to the misrepresentation").

9 In the Complaint, Plaintiff alleges "Defendants offered the loan for one price, but then
10 provided the loan for a different price." (Dkt. # 3). However, the complaint lacks any specific
11 allegations against Defendant alleging false representations or otherwise showing that it was involved
12 in the alleged fraud. Plaintiff thus fails to meet the "particularity" requirement to establish an
13 allegation of fraud and accordingly, this claim fails.

14 D. Breach of Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing

15 To allege a claim for breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, plaintiff must
16 claim: 1) plaintiff and defendant were parties to a contract; 2) defendant owed a duty of good faith to
17 plaintiff; 3) defendant breached that duty by performing in a manner that was unfaithful to the
18 purpose of the contract; and 4) plaintiff's justified expectations were denied. Perry v. Jordan, 900
19 P.2d 335, 338; see Hilton Hotels v. Butch Lewis Productions, 808 P.2d 919, 923 (1991). Under
20 Nevada law, "[e]very contract imposes upon each party a duty of good faith and fair dealing in its
21 performance and execution." A.C. Shaw Contr. v. Washoe County, 784 P.2d 9 (Nev. 1989). A
22 plaintiff may assert an action if the defendant intentionally breaches the intention and spirit of the
23 agreement. Morris v. Bank of America, 886 P.2d 454, 457 (Nev. 1994) (citing Hilton Hotels v. Butch
24 Lewis Productions, 808 P.2d 919, 922-23 (1991)).

25 Plaintiff has alleged no contractual relationship between Plaintiff and Defendant. Defendant
26 argues that it is not a party to the Promissory Note, nor to the Deed of Trust. Further, judicially

1 noticeable documents reflect that Defendant was substituted as trustee on Feb. 2, 2011, nearly four
2 years after Plaintiff signed the loan. Since the Complaint contains no facts indicating that Defendant
3 owes a contractual obligation to Plaintiff, the claim against Defendant for breach of contract is
4 dismissed.

5 E. Quiet Title

6 In Nevada, a quiet title action can be brought only against one who claims an adverse interest
7 in property. NRS 40.010. “In a quiet title action, the burden of proof rests with the plaintiff to prove
8 good title in himself.” Brelant v. Preferred Equities Corp., 918 P.2d 314, 318 (Nev. 1996). The
9 recorded titleholder is presumed to be the true titleholder. This presumption must be overcome by
10 the plaintiff. Biasa v. Leavitt, 692 P.2d 1301, 1304 (1985). Further, Courts have held that an action
11 for quiet title “should be dismissed where plaintiff’s claim is not based on a cognizable legal theory.”
12 Elias v. HomeEQ Servicing, 2009 WL 481270, at *2 (D.Nev. Feb. 25, 2009).

13 Here, Defendant claims it has no adverse interest in the Property because Defendant acted
14 merely as a foreclosure trustee, and has never made any claim of interest in the Property. Plaintiff
15 has not responded to this argument. See LR 7-2.

16 Additionally, a basic requirement of an action to quiet title is an allegation that the plaintiff is
17 the rightful owner of the property. Lasao v. Stearns Lending Co., 2011 WL 3273923 at 8-9 (D. Nev.).
18 Plaintiff can become a rightful owner by satisfying her obligations under the Deed of Trust.
19 However, it is undisputed that the Property is encumbered by a mortgage and that Plaintiff is in
20 default. Plaintiff cannot hold good and clear title to the property. Accordingly, her claim fails.

21 F. Breach of Fiduciary Duty

22 A non-judicial foreclosure trustee has neither the legal powers nor the obligations of a trustee
23 under traditional trust law. Orzoff v. Bank of America, N.A., 2011 WL 1539897 at 3 (D. Nev. 2011).
24 See also, Erickson v. PNC Mortgage, 2011 WL 1626582 at 2 (D. Nev. 2011) (“MTC Financial, as a
25 foreclosure trustee, does not owe a fiduciary duty to [trustors].”). The scope and nature of a trustee’s
26 duties are exclusively defined by the deed of trust and the governing statutes. Banc of America

1 Leasing & Capital, LLC v. 3 Arch Trustee Services., 180 Cal. App. 4th 1090, 1097-1098 (2009). No
2 other common law duties exist. Hendrickson v. Popular Mortgage Servicing, Inc., 2009 WL
3 1455491 at 7 (N.D. Cal. 2009).

4 Plaintiff has not alleged that Defendant violated any duty defined by the deed of trust or
5 statute. Accordingly, Plaintiff fails to state a cognizable claim for breach of fiduciary duty.
6 Defendant's motion to dismiss this claim is granted.

7 G. Injunctive Relief

8 Injunctive relief is not a separate cause of action or an independent ground for relief. See In re
9 Wal-Mart Wage & Hour Employment Practices Litig., 490 F.Supp.2d 1091, 1130 (D.NV. 2007).
10 Claims for injunctive or declaratory relief are remedies that may be afforded to a party after they have
11 sufficiently established and proven their claims. Id. Because Plaintiff has not stated any claims for
12 which injunctive relief could be granted, she is not entitled to injunctive relief. The Court dismisses
13 this claim.

14 H. Suitability

15 Common law does not impose any additional obligations on a foreclosure trustee other than
16 those specifically stated in the deed of trust or the governing statutes. See Weingartner v. Chase Home
17 Finance, LLC, 702 F.Supp.2d 1276, 1291 (D.Nev. 2010). The trustee's limited duties are twofold: (1)
18 to "reconvey" the deed of trust to the trustor upon satisfaction of the debt owed to the beneficiary,
19 resulting in a release of the lien created by the deed of trust, or (2) to initiate nonjudicial foreclosure
20 on the property upon the trustor's default, resulting in a sale of the property. Vournas v. Fidelity Nat.
21 Tit. Ins. Co., 73 Cal. App. 4th 668, 677 (1999).

22 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant had a duty to present her only with the most suitable loans.
23 (Dkt. #3). However, because Defendant is not the lender and because Defendant does not owe any
24 other duty or obligation to Plaintiff, the suitability claim fails.

1 I. Negligence

2 In order to state a claim for negligence, a plaintiff must prove four elements: (1) that the
3 defendant owed plaintiff a duty of care; (2) that defendant breached this duty of care; (3) that the
4 breach was the legal cause of plaintiff's injury; and (4) that plaintiff suffered damages. . . ."
5 Hammerstein v. Jean Dev. West, 907 P.2d 975, 977 (Nev. 1995).

6 As discussed above, Defendant argues that it owes no duty of care to Plaintiff beyond its
7 obligations stated in the deed of trust. Plaintiff has not averred in the Complaint facts that plausibly
8 show a breach of any duty of care owed by Defendant. Accordingly, the negligence claim fails.

9 J. Liability Per Se

10 Section 1640 (e) of Truth in Lending Act ("TILA") provides that "any action under this
11 section may be brought...within one year from the date of the occurrence of the violation." The date
12 of the violation refers to the date "the loan documents were signed." Meyer v. Ameriquet Mortgage
13 Co., 342 F.3d 889, 902 (9th Cir. 2003).

14 The Deed of Trust shows that Plaintiff signed the loan documents in 2007. However,
15 Plaintiff did not file her Complaint until 2011, almost four years later. Accordingly, her claims under
16 TILA are barred by the statute of limitations.

17 K. Unfair Lending Practices

18 In Nevada, a lender cannot knowingly originate a home loan for a borrower without
19 determining whether the borrower has the ability to repay the loan. NRS §598D.100(1)(b). Claims
20 under NRS §598(D) are limited by a two-year statute of limitations. NRS §11.190(4)(b); Taylor v.
21 World Sav. Bank, F.S.B., 2012 WL 14028 (D.Nev.2012).

22 As discussed above, because Defendant is not a lender and made no loan to Plaintiff this
23 claim fails.

24 L. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

25 In order to assert a claim of intentional infliction of emotional distress, a plaintiff must prove
26 that (1) the defendant engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct with the intention of causing

1 emotional distress or acted with reckless disregard for plaintiff's emotional distress; (2) the plaintiff
2 suffered severe or extreme emotional distress as a result; and (3) the defendant's action were the
3 proximate cause of plaintiff's emotional distress. Jordan v. State, 121 Nev. 44 (Nev. 2005); Byrd v.
4 Meridian Foreclosure Service, 2011 WL 1362135 at 2 (D. Nev.).

5 In her Complaint, Plaintiff does not identify any actions by Defendant that rise to the level of
6 "extreme and outrageous conduct," plausibly showing that she suffered severe emotional distress, or
7 showing that Defendant's action was the proximate cause of any distress. Accordingly, the
8 Complaint fails to state a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress.

9 III. Conclusion

10 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the Motion to Dismiss (#14) of Defendant MTC
11 Financial Inc., d/b/a Trustee Corps. is **GRANTED**.

12 DATED this 21th day of June 2012

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16 Kent J. Dawson
17 United States District Judge
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